



**Alberta
Cattle
Commission**

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

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Call us at (403) 275-4400

Initial Countervail Decision Good News

Canadian cattle producers are pleased with a decision by the U.S. Department of Commerce not to apply preliminary countervailing duties against exports of Canadian live cattle.

Ben Thorlakson, president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association says the decision upholds the position of both the Canadian government and cattle producers that Canadian producers are trading fairly and are not receiving unfair subsidies.

The U.S. Department of Commerce ruled that neither the activities of the Canadian Wheat Board in

the domestic grain market, nor the Net Income Stabilization Account are countervailable. They also indicated that a number of programs targeted by Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Foundation (RCALF) are permitted under World Trade Organization rules.

"This is just a preliminary decision by the Department of Commerce," says Thorlakson, "and we can expect RCALF to mount a vigorous campaign to get them to reverse their decision. However we know that our case is very strong and their allegations have no basis under international rules."

Lease Issues Yet to be Resolved

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) believes **the Agricultural Dispositions Statutes Amendment Act only addresses some of the concerns of cattle producers.** Some very important issues are left to be dealt with by regulation.

If the new Act passes, industrial sites and access roads will be removed from the disposition.

"It's really going to be important what is in the regulations, what the definition of damages and operational impacts are,

and what compensation leaseholders will be eligible for," says Jim Turner, ACC chairman. The ACC has asked the Minister to clarify the legislation on compensation for operational impacts and damages.

While the ACC believes the legislation largely resolves the problem of increased occupiers' liability resulting from public access, the ACC contends it's important to determine how disputes will be resolved to avoid ongoing problems between lessees, industrial users and government.

Beef Development Fund Promoted

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) has told the province it **wants industry development funds included in the next round of safety net negotiations.**

For years, beef cattle producers have resisted receiving direct support from government through safety net programs due to potential trade implications. Instead cattle producers have preferred federal and provincial industry development funds.

The ACC believes **the cattle industry will make much larger gains in terms of improved competitiveness and market advantage** through the use development funds than would have occurred had they been allocated to producer support programs.

The federal and provincial governments are about to begin a new round of safety net negotiations. It's important that Alberta advocate that industry development be given recognition as a program to which federal safety net funds can be allocated.



Retail Meat Counter Pilot Promotion

The ACC has a new summer retail pilot promotion where dynamic, trained consumer counselors are stationed near the meat counter in Calgary supermarkets to answer consumer questions about beef product selection and cooking preparation. Promotional recipes and information about beef grading, nutrition and food safety will also be available.

**Cattle Market
Information
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